



NO OFFENSE

PROVERBS 19:11

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1. Pastor Mark tells the story of the Halloween Costume controversy at Yale University in 2015. When a professor objected to rules prohibiting students from wearing Mexican Sombreros, Turbans, and Indian Headdresses on Halloween, the students accused the professor of hate speech and demanded she lose her job and be removed from campus. In what ways were the students justified in being upset? In what ways might their concerns have been exaggerated?
2. Read Proverbs 19:11. Why is it important to not be easily offended? Do you think American are becoming more easily offended these days? Why or why not?
3. In your mind, what is the difference between speech that might be somewhat offensive, and speech that should be declared "hate speech?"
4. Are you familiar with the phrase "cancel culture"? If so, how would you define that?
5. Pastor Mark suggest that it is difficult to have serious conversation about important issues in our culture, because people quickly get offended and start calling each other names. Do you think that is true? If so, what can be done to facilitate honest conversation without leading to hostility?



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6. Read Colossians 3:12. How does this passage help us better engage with friends and family without being offended or being offensive?

7. How do you decide when to stand up for yourself and speak out when something offends you, versus just shrugging it off and letting it go?

8. How has social media (especially Twitter and Facebook) created a more hostile culture in America?

9. What do you think Pastor Mark means when he suggests that we develop a thick skin and a tender heart?

10. Read Romans 12:18. How can Christians be positive role models of grace while still standing up for important principles during these tumultuous times?